

MARVEL

4

LGY#730

DONNY CATES

NIC KLEIN

MATT WILSON

THOR



THOR

THOR RECENTLY BECAME THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD, BUT HE BARELY HAD TIME TO SETTLE INTO HIS NEW ROLE BEFORE GALACTUS IMBUED HIM WITH THE POWER COSMIC SO THAT HE COULD HELP DEAL WITH A POWERFUL THREAT:

THE BLACK WINTER, A STAR PLAGUE THAT DESTROYED GALACTUS' ORIGINAL UNIVERSE AND IS NOW COMING TO DESTROY THIS UNIVERSE.

TO PREVENT IT FROM DOING SO, GALACTUS NEEDS TO CONSUME FIVE PLANETS WITH RARE AND UNIQUE ENERGIES THAT WILL AUGMENT HIS POWER.

THOR MANAGED TO SAVE THE INHABITANTS OF THE FIRST PLANET BEFORE GALACTUS DESTROYED IT, BUT THEN THEIR QUEST WAS INTERRUPTED BY BETA RAY BILL, A LONGTIME FRIEND OF THOR'S AND BEARER OF ANOTHER ASGARDIAN HAMMER NAMED STORMBREAKER.

FURIOUS THAT THOR WOULD ALLY WITH GALACTUS, BILL FOUGHT TO STOP THEM BOTH, BUT THOR – WHO GAVE UP THE POWER COSMIC TO MAKE IT A FAIR FIGHT – SHATTERED STORMBREAKER AND MIGHT HAVE KILLED BILL...

...IF THE NOW ALL-SEEING LADY SIF HAD NOT ARRIVED TO STAND IN HIS WAY.

“THE DEVOURER KING” PART FOUR “THE VOID”

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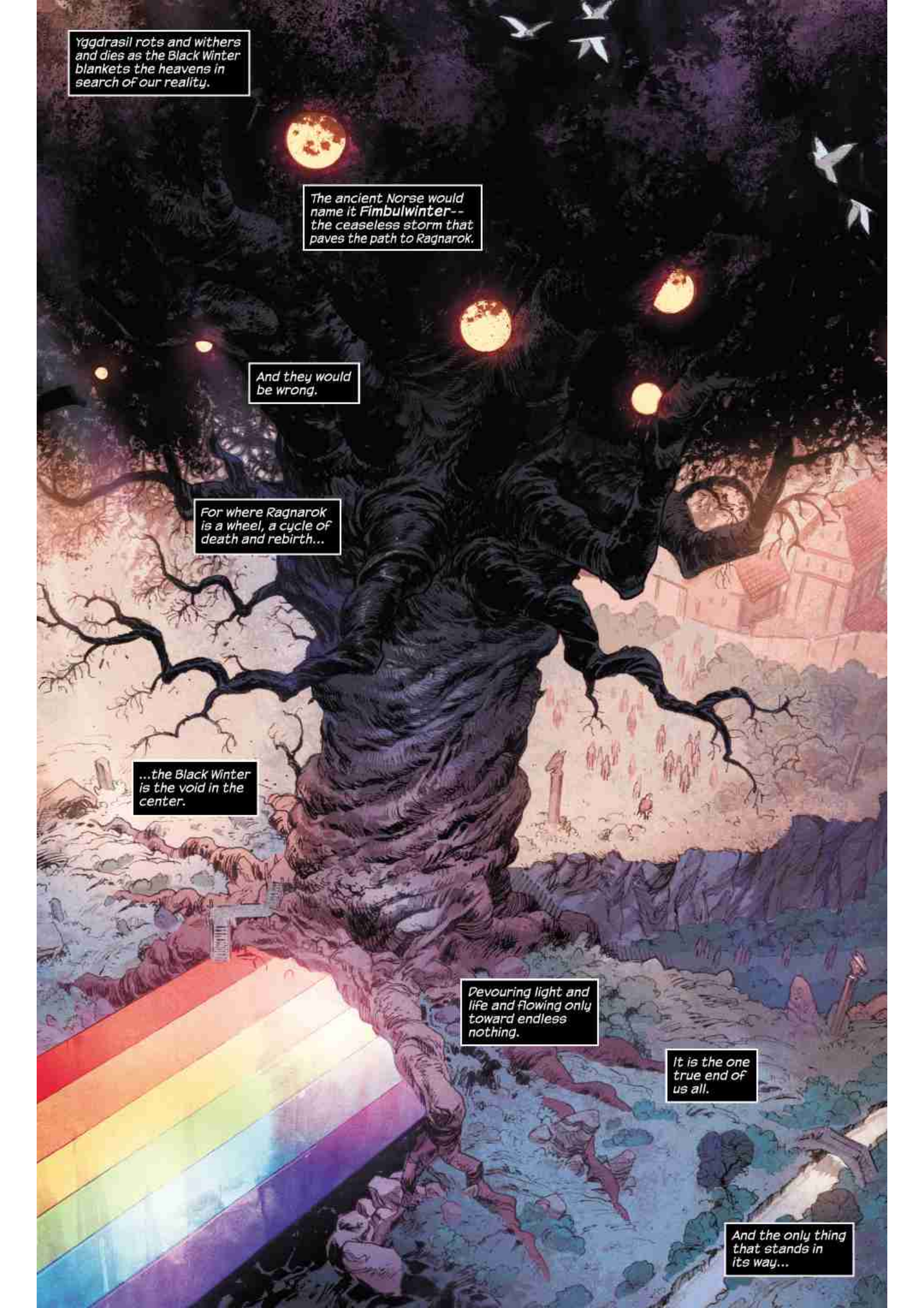
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THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



Yggdrasil rots and withers
and dies as the Black Winter
blankets the heavens in
search of our reality.

The ancient Norse would
name it Fimbulwinter--
the ceaseless storm that
paves the path to Ragnarok.

And they would
be wrong.

For where Ragnarok
is a wheel, a cycle of
death and rebirth...

...the Black Winter
is the void in the
center.

Devouring light and
life and flowing only
toward endless
nothing.

It is the one
true end of
us all.

And the only thing
that stands in
its way...

...is:

THOR.

YOU
UNBELIEVABLE
HORSE'S ASS.

SIF, THINK VERY CAREFULLY
ABOUT HOW YOU PROCEED. I
AM YOUR KING, AND THERE
IS ONLY SO MUCH I WILL
TOLERATE FROM--

SAVE YOUR
BREATH. I'M NOT
AFRAID OF YOU, AND
I'M NOT GOING TO
FIGHT YOU,
THOR.

YOU ARE THE
GUARDIAN OF THE
BIFROST. YOU HAVE
ABANDONED YOUR
POST, AND I
WILL NOT--

YOU'RE
RIGHT. I
AM.

REALLY, LADY SIF, THIS
IS UNNEEDED. I AM FINE.
I JUST NEED TO
CATCH MY--

WHAT
DAY IS IT,
BILL?

I...ER,
MONDAY?

VERY WELL
THEN.

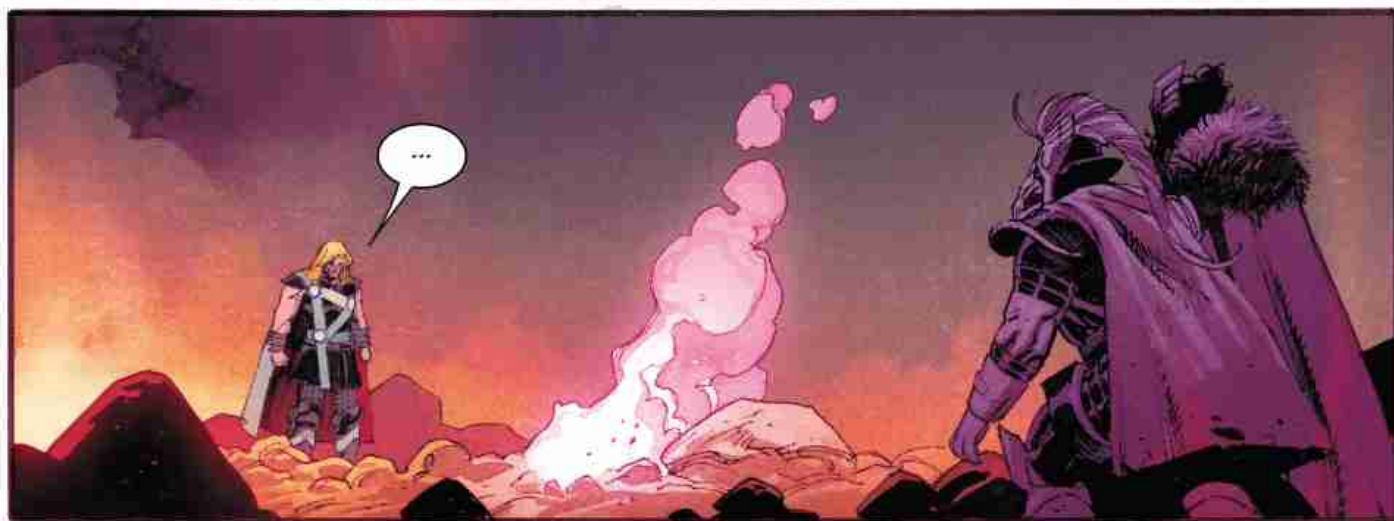
WAS
THAT A
QUESTION?

AND I'M
TAKING BILL
BACK TO ASGARD
UNDER MY
PROTECTION.

DO
AS YOU
MUST.

THAT IS ENOUGH, SIF! I
WILL NOT TAKE ORDERS
FROM YOU OR FROM
ANYONE! NOW STAND
ASIDE OR--

OR
WHAT?



THE FROZEN
WASTELANDS OF
JOTUNHEIM.

And then, suddenly,
there was LOKI...

BWAAM!

...yet **another** restless king
hoping to deafen his thoughts
through wanton acts of
self-destruction...

SIGH

...only to have them
smashed by the
sudden wail of a
hammer.

INTERESTING...

BOOM

JOTUNHEIM?!
WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU THINKING,
SIF? HOW COULD
YOU--

I'VE SENT IT
TO A PLACE WHERE
NO MAN MAY WIELD IT.
WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH
OF THAT FOR ONE
DAY, DON'T YOU
THINK?

THIS IS
MADNESS. MY
FATHER WOULD
NEVER STAND FOR
SUCH A THING,
AND IF YOU
THINK--

YOU ARE
NOT YOUR
FATHER!

YOU'RE
BETTER.

I KNOW
THAT YOU
ARE RESTLESS
IN THIS NEW
ROLE.

THAT YOU
THINK YOUR BEST
DAYS BEHIND YOU AND
THE IDEA OF DYING
FAT ON A THRONE
CRIPPLES YOU,
THOR.

BUT YOU
MUST NOT LOSE
YOURSELF IN YOUR
QUEST TO PROVE
YOU'RE STILL
WORTHY.

I KNOW
YOU ARE
SCARED OF
THE END.
BUT YOU--

WHAT?
NO. I AM NOT
AFRAID OF--

YES.
YOU ARE.

I SEE
EVERYTHING.
REMEMBER?

MEANWHILE...



...THE START OF
SOMETHING NEW.



WHAT
THE HELL IS
THIS?

A TRICK?
A TRAP? A
TEST?

The enchantment of Mjolnir,
as we all know, states that
only the worthiest of
champions may wield it.

mmm...I
WONDER...



This powerful, unbreakable
magic was placed upon it
long ago by the
All-Father Odin.

However, as Odin
himself would
tell you...

...things
change.

...VERY
INTERESTING.



...there is still
time left to
return to.

GALACTUS
BORES OF
YOUR FAMILY
SQUABBLES.

IF YOU
ARE FINISHED
IN THIS
PLACE...

...I YET
HUNGER.

AYE...

GO
HOME. BOTH
OF YOU.
now.







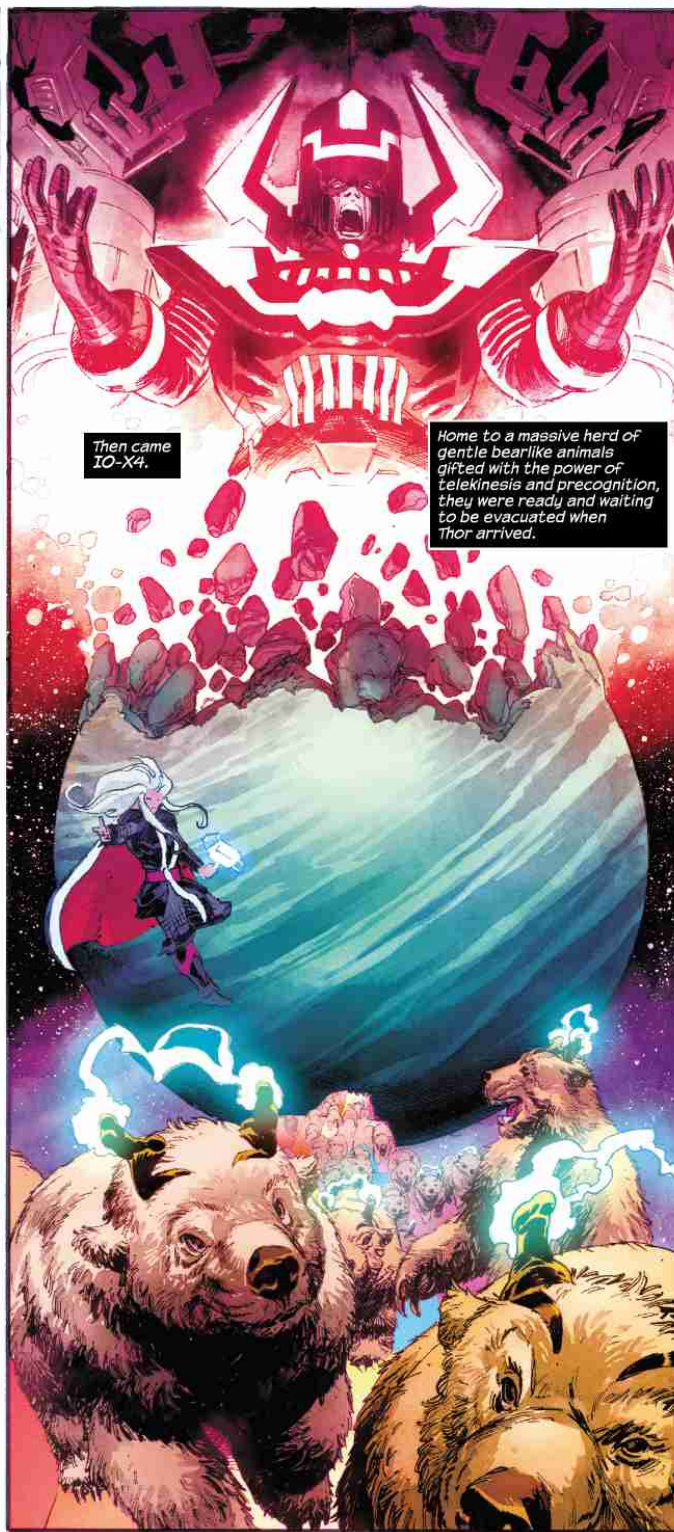


And so, the reign of the thunder king spread heavy, across the stars.

And as the Black Winter quickened toward everything, the Devourer and his herald darkened three more skies.

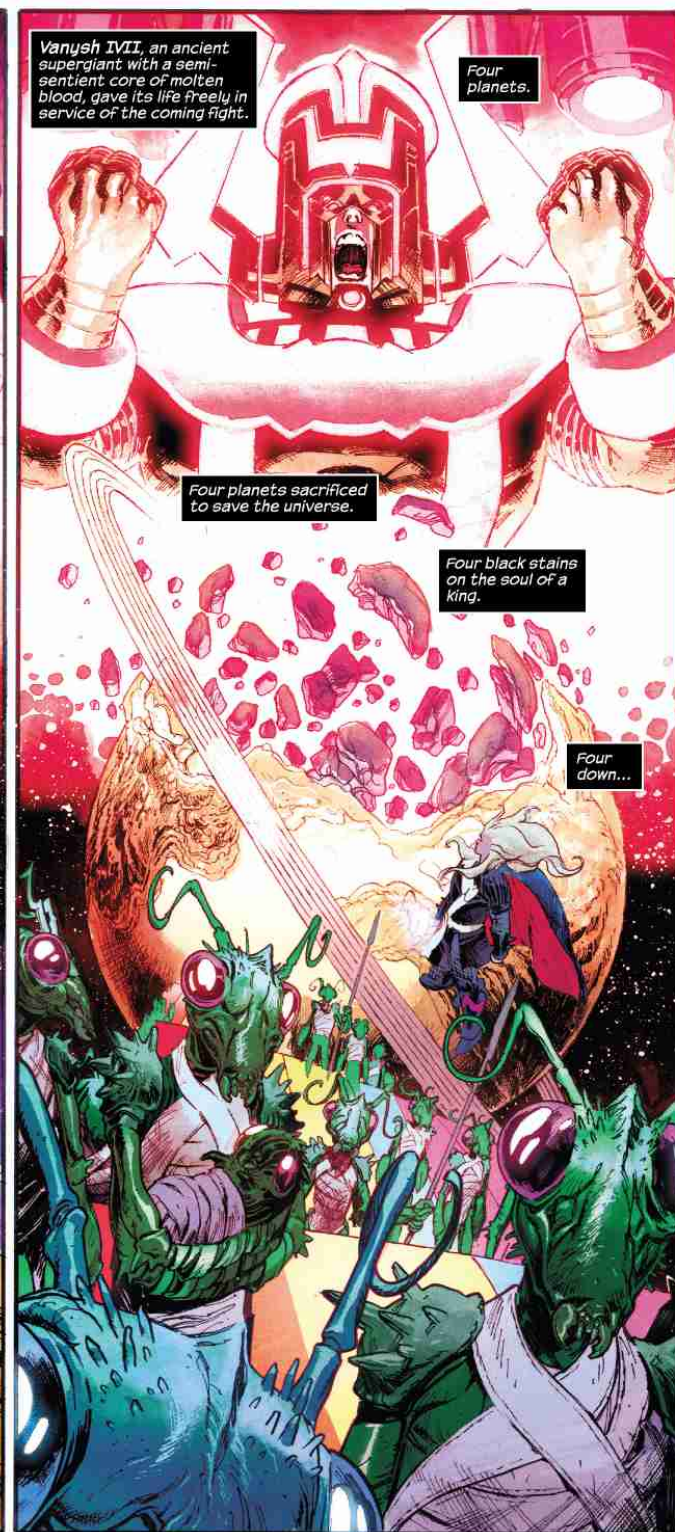
Sylus, an uninhabitable and miniscule mesoplanet and former home to a race of long-dead war sorcerers, fell first.

Their burial ground, rich in decomposing enchantments, added its dark power to Galactus' growing might.



Then came IO-X4.

Home to a massive herd of gentle bearlike animals gifted with the power of telekinesis and precognition, they were ready and waiting to be evacuated when Thor arrived.



Vanysh IVII, an ancient supergiant with a semi-sentient core of molten blood, gave its life freely in service of the coming fight.

Four planets.

Four planets sacrificed to save the universe.

Four black stains on the soul of a king.

Four down...

...and one
to go.

PLANET
FIVE:

KRYO.







WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET! I HAVE NOT GIVEN YOU PERMISSION TO--



GALACTUS NEEDS NO PERMISSION! YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR BARGAIN, THUNDER GOD. YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THE FINAL WORLD.

AND WE ARE OUT OF TIME.



THE BLACK WINTER IS HERE.



no...



To look into the Black Winter is to witness your own fate.



To see the form of your true death.



For the king of Kryo, as with Galactus, it looks very much...like Thor.

GODS...
NO, IT CAN'T
BE...



But for the god of thunder himself...



...there will only be darkness.

And lo, in the darkness...

...there was lightning.

Thor's newfound Power Cosmic roars through his veins and into his enchanted Uru.

The resulting blast, fired into the heart of the falling black storm, could shatter entire continents...

AAGHH!!!

Here, it buys Galactus exactly fourteen seconds to devour the planet's core.

And for the denizens of the planet Kryo...

I...

I AM SO SORRY.

...it buys them nothing.



THERE. IT IS DONE. NOW, WE MUST ACT QUICKLY. THE WINTER IS HERE. STAY AT MY SIDE AND--

I KNOW IT HAD TO BE DONE. BUT THAT MAKES IT NO BETTER. SO KNOW THIS, GALACTUS...



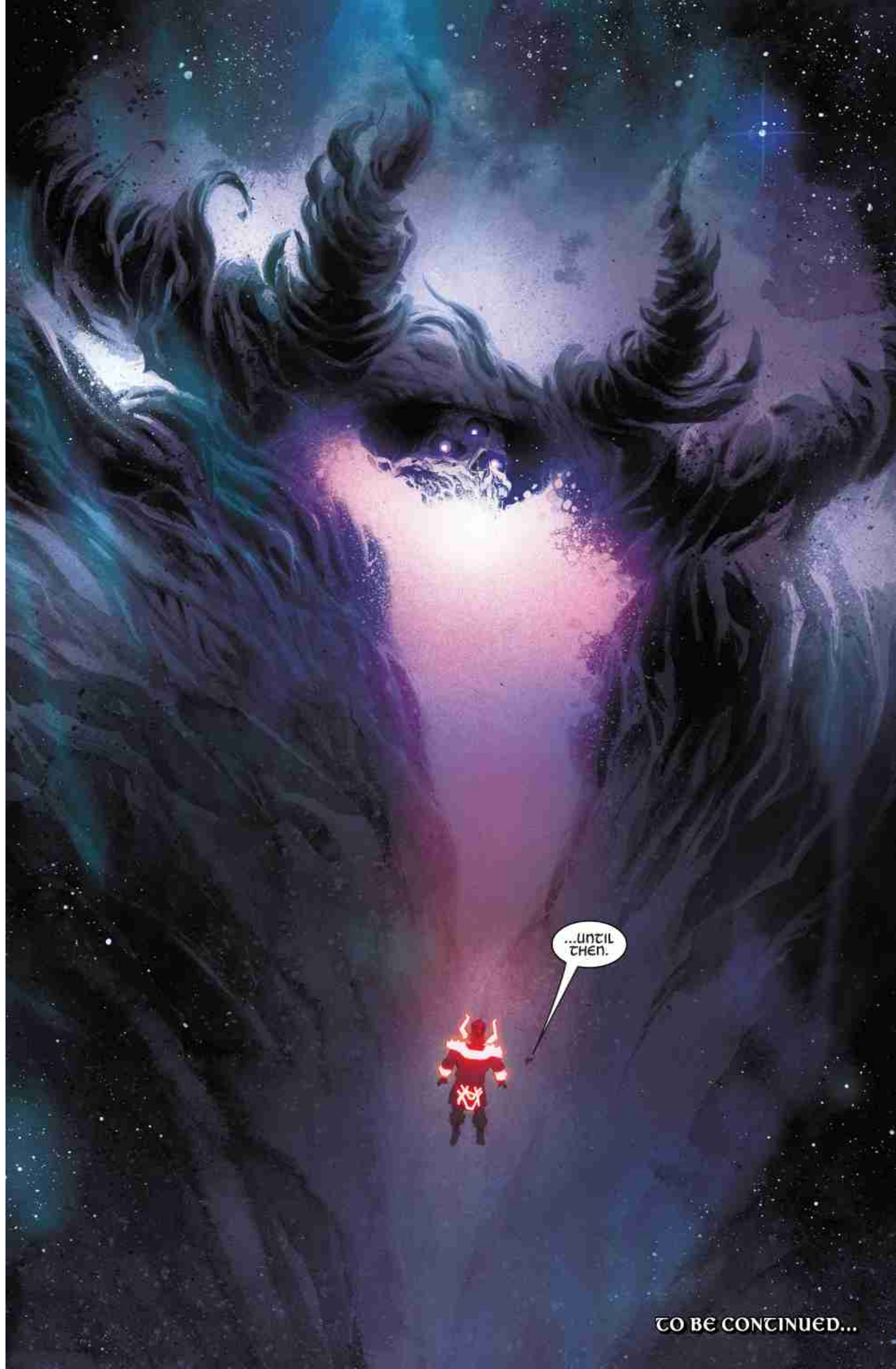
...WHEN THE WINTER IS CLEAR, YOU WILL ANSWER FOR THE PEOPLE OF KRYO. AND FOR ALL THE LIVES YOU HAVE STOLEN BEFORE IT.



UNTIL THEN.



AYE...



...UNTIL
THEN.

TO BE CONTINUED...

QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Scree! That Black Winter looks mighty formidable... You think King Thor can handle it, Muninn?

I think you better not let him hear you asking, Huginn! That thing's got my feathers riled though. And it looks like we're not the only ones. Let's swoop down to get the word on the street, eh?

Wait, hold on... Let me pick my jaw up off the floor. I finished the first issue of THOR, and you all knocked it out of the park. Seriously.

Jason Aaron is one of my all-time favorite writers in comics. I've gotten used to seeing his name on Thor books over the years. But if anyone had to pick up the hammer after Jason, I'm glad it was Donny Cates. The love and respect Donny has for Jason is insane, so this feels right.

I was bummed when Marvel announced that Donny's GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY would end after twelve issues but, um, I'll happily let THOR take its place on my pull list.

Hoping this creative team stays on THOR for the long run. Matthew Wilson always brings something new to every book he works on. I look forward to seeing what he does whenever he goes to a new title. Nic Klein's style shows Thor's vulnerability while matching it with grand scope. He makes gods feel vulnerable—human but still powerful. This book looks like it's going to be heavy metal Jack Kirby cosmic insanity, and I can't wait to see where the god-king goes next.

By the way—I dig these letters pages and appreciate that Marvel still does them.

Best,
Shah Emami
AL

'Tis a lot of extra work for a couple of humble ravens, Shah, and your praise is mightily appreciated!

Hi Donny,

I loved the first issue of THOR and can't wait until the next one, but I was mainly writing in to ask something: Does this comic have any potential connection to IMMORTAL HULK? I was wondering because of the presence of Galactus in both comics, specifically the predictions made in their respective comics that either Thor or Hulk,

depending on the series, will ultimately be the one to kill Galactus. I'm hoping for some clarification, possibly through a collaboration.

Thanks,
Tucker Latour
Baton Rouge, LA

Hey Huginn, you talked to Al Ewing lately?

Who?

The guy who writes—you know what, never mind. Tucker, an honorable scribe like yourself surely knows there's only one answer to this question...keep reading both books!

Hey!

Just finished reading the first issue of the new THOR series. God, it's epic, and the drawing is so unique! I don't think I've seen something like that before in Marvel Comics—this is more of a mythological story that stands out on its own. Beautiful!!! Definitely looking forward to upcoming issues. Also Donny's letter about losing magic when creating something and knowing behind the scenes really makes you think about life, about choices we make and the price that we have to pay for it.

Thank you!
Mypat

Who you calling "mythological"?! Ravens are extremely real, thank you very much.

THOR #1 is another hit from Donny Cates and Marvel Comics, and I am excited to see this cosmic story unfold every month starting in the new year. My favorite part would have to be seeing Galactus give the Power Cosmic to Thor, leaving us readers excited for what's to come. But even better than the story was reading what Cates wrote to us fans at the end of the comic. It was as if Stan Lee had sent the message himself into Donny's mind as he wrote it. Thanks, Donny and Marvel, for making this grown man feel like a kid again.

Dametre Contreras

Muninn, you wanna tell Donny Cates someone just compared him to Stan Lee? Now that's a message worth flying for!

Thanks for taking over THOR, Mr. Cates, Mr. Klein and Mr. Wilson. With the end of Mr. Aaron's run, I was eagerly looking forward to reading the first issue of a brand-new series about one of my favorite heroes. I live in Mexico, so I had to wait three weeks to read it, and I am far from disappointed. I am grateful to all of you for surrendering that magic that Mr. Cates was talking about, that magic that keeps us waiting for the next issue. Thanks for giving us the light of the storm once more. When we all thought that Thor becoming the All-Father was the highest rank that he can possibly achieve, the Devourer of Worlds says: "Nay, I have a story to tell to thee." So here we are, aboard this new ship that will take us to unexplored stories. May the thunder and lightning guide us through the Donny Cates run.

Pablo

Look at that, Huginn, we got us a Midgardian poet here!

Maybe *he* should be the one speaking for a king...

Hi, I'm from Germany and read almost all Thor-related Marvel stuff, over 1,000 comics. Not all of Thor's developments pleased me, but I admired the heroic Thor as someone to look up to—perfectly portrayed by Walt Simonson. That was the magic for me in my youth (I'm 54 now). Like Loki said: It is getting heavier, then. I'm looking forward to days of high adventure and perhaps some magic too! Greetings to you who are worthy!

Bernie

A true historian in our midst! Bless you and your wisdom, Bernie.

Uh-oh—you hear that, Muninn?

Aye, Huginn. The death of the universe. I expect we'd best fly back to our king. We'll see you, spectators of Midgard, in a mere 30 days! Unless we all die before then.

Muninn!

Right, sorry, optimism it is.

NEXT ISSUE:
INTO THE STORM!



